

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended): ~~An~~ A Raman-active optical fiber having a core with ~~an~~ a higher refractive index and a cladding with a lower refractive index, said core comprising a multi-component oxide glass composition comprising:

a glass former component made of  $\text{SiO}_2$  having a concentration of between 30 and 90 mol%; and

two Raman-active components of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  in a concentration of up to 50 mol% in total;

wherein said Raman-active optical fiber has areas comprising  $\text{LiNbO}_3$  crystallization particles induced by heat treatment of the fiber.

7. (currently amended): A fiber according to claim 6, wherein said ~~inner~~ cladding is made of silicate glass.

8-10. (canceled).

11. (new): A fiber according to claim 6, wherein said multi-component oxide glass composition further comprises at least one glass modifier component of alkaline or earth-alkaline in a concentration of up to 40 mol%.

12. (new): A fiber according to claim 11, wherein said glass modifier component is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Rb}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Cs}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{BeO}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$ .

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13. (new): A fiber according to claim 6, wherein said multi-component oxide glass composition further comprises at least one other oxide component selected from the group consisting of  $P_2O_5$ ,  $B_2O_3$ ,  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $Ta_2O_5$ ,  $V_2O_5$ ,  $As_2O_3$ ,  $GeO_2$ ,  $TiO_2$ ,  $ZrO_2$ ,  $PbO$ ,  $Bi_2O_3$ ,  $Mo_2O_3$ ,  $WO_3$ ,  $SnO_2$ ,  $Sb_2O_3$ ,  $Ga_2O_3$ ,  $In_2O_3$ ,  $TeO_2$  in a concentration of up to 40 mol%.

14. (new): A fiber according to claim 6, wherein said multi-component oxide glass composition further comprises at least one sulfide component.

15. (new): A Raman amplifier or laser, comprising a pump source coupled to a Raman-active optical fiber,

    said Raman-active optical fiber having a core with a higher refractive index and a cladding with a lower refractive index, and

    said core comprising a multi-component oxide glass composition comprising:

    a glass former component made of  $SiO_2$  having a concentration of between 30 and 90 mol%; and

    two Raman-active components of  $Li_2O$  and  $Nb_2O_5$  in a concentration of up to 50 mol% in total.

16. (new): A Raman amplifier or laser according to claim 15, wherein said cladding is made of silicate glass.

17. (new): A Raman amplifier or laser according to claim 15, wherein said Raman-active optical fiber has areas comprising  $LiNbO_3$  crystallization particles induced by heat treatment of the fiber.

18. (new): A Raman amplifier or laser according to claim 15, wherein said multi-component oxide glass composition further comprises at least one glass modifier component of alkaline or earth-alkaline in a concentration of up to 40 mol%.

19. (new): A Raman amplifier or laser according to claim 18, wherein said glass modifier component is selected from the group consisting of  $Li_2O$ ,  $Na_2O$ ,  $K_2O$ ,  $Rb_2O$ ,  $Cs_2O$ ,  $BeO$ ,  $MgO$ ,  $CaO$ ,  $SrO$ ,  $BaO$ .

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20. (new): A Raman amplifier or laser according to claim 15, wherein said multi-component oxide glass composition further comprises at least one other oxide component selected from the group consisting of  $P_2O_5$ ,  $B_2O_3$ ,  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $Ta_2O_5$ ,  $V_2O_5$ ,  $As_2O_3$ ,  $GeO_2$ ,  $TiO_2$ ,  $ZrO_2$ ,  $PbO$ ,  $Bi_2O_3$ ,  $Mo_2O_3$ ,  $WO_3$ ,  $SnO_2$ ,  $Sb_2O_3$ ,  $Ga_2O_3$ ,  $In_2O_3$ ,  $TeO_2$  in a concentration of up to 40 mol%.

21. (new): A Raman amplifier or laser according to claim 15, wherein said multi-component oxide glass composition further comprises at least one sulfide component.